

OCS Scientific Committee

Function

The OCS Scientific Committee will give advice on the feasibility, appropriateness, and scientific value of the Outer Continental Shelf Environmental Studies Program and the OCS Sand and Gravel Program to the Director, Minerals Management Service. The Committee will review the relevance of the research and data being produced to meet MMS scientific information needs for decision making and may recommend changes in scope, direction and emphasis.

Membership

The Secretary may appoint between 10 and 15 members for 2-year terms. Members may serve three consecutive terms. After a 2-year break in service, the member may be reappointed to serve additional terms. A member may serve until their replacement is appointed.

Appointments will be made to balance the Committee in terms of technical skills and geographic representation. Members will be appointed to the Committee based on the following criteria:

- Scientific competence,
- Reputation within their field of expertise, and
- \$ Ability to represent important elements of the MMS's research and science information efforts.

In addition, the Secretary may appoint one discretionary member to serve a 2-year term on the Committee. This discretionary member may be reappointed for additional 2-year terms and is not limited to the number of consecutive terms served. This appointment will be based on the member's scientific eminence as evidenced by national and international awards for professional excellence, induction to prestigious professional academies or societies and other highly meritorious recognition for scholarship and research as well as distinguished prior service to the Committee.

Officers

Committee Officers

The Committee will elect a Chair and Vice Chair from its membership to serve 2-year terms.

Federal Officers

The following individuals will serve as ex officio, nonvoting participants on the Committee:

- Associate Director for Offshore Minerals Management is the Executive Director
- Chief, Environmental Division is the Executive Secretary
- Chief Scientist is the MMS Science Liaison to the Committee

Official to Whom the Committee Reports

The Director, Minerals Management Service. The Director or his designee will serve as the Designated Federal Officer.

Office Responsible for Providing Necessary Support

The Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service.

Subcommittees

The Committee may establish subcommittees to study issues in-depth and to develop recommendations for consideration by the full Committee. Membership will be balanced in terms of points of view, subcommittee function, and expertise required by the subcommittee. Subcommittees may include people who are not members of the Committee. The Committee Chair will appoint subcommittee members. The OCS Scientific Committee may provide reports to the OCS Policy Committee.

Estimated Number and Frequency of Meetings

The Committee will meet once a year.

Travel Expenses

Each member will be reimbursed for travel expenses incurred when attending Committee meetings in accordance with Federal travel regulations as implemented by the Department of the Interior.

Estimated Operating Costs

We estimate that the activities of the Committee will cost \$44,000 and require one work year of Federal employee support annually.

Meeting Minutes

Detailed minutes of each Committee meeting, recommendations made, and copies of all studies and reports received, issued, or approved in conjunction with the activities of the Committee will be available for public inspection at the following location:

Minerals Management Service
381 Elden Street, Mail Stop 4040
Herndon, Virginia 20170-4817